

April 23, 2018

VIA FOIAONLINE. REGULATIONS.GOV
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460
Phone: (202) 566-1667
Fax: (202) 566-2147

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request: Communications with Faegre Baker Daniels firm

Dear National Freedom of Information Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, (FOIA), Friends of the Earth (FOE) hereby requests the following records from Headquarters of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

I. Requested Record

- Any and all records held by the EPA of meetings between the EPA Office of the Administrator and employees of the law firm Faegre Baker Daniels that took place between January 1, 2017 and April 23, 2018;
- Any and all records held by the EPA Office of the Administrator of communications between the EPA and employees of the law firm Faegre Baker Daniels that were sent or received between January 1, 2017 and April 23, 2018.

II. Scope of request:

- For the purposes of this request, records of “meetings” includes, but is not limited to, meeting minutes, presentations (including slides), exhibits, notes, transcripts, or other materials either presented to EPA by employees or other representatives of Faegre Baker Daniels, or presented by EPA to Faegre Baker Daniels during the meeting, shared in advance before the meeting, or provided to/from EPA as follow-up to the meeting.
- For the purposes of this request, “communications” includes letters and emails as well as their attachments, between EPA and the law firm Faegre Baker Daniels, particularly those involving any email address ending in “@faegreBD.com.”

III. Fee waiver

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(I), FOE requests a fee waiver for all costs associated with this request. Friends of the Earth is a nonprofit organizer under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. By definition we have no commercial interest in any of the data requested.

In addition, the records sought by FOE will be published and used to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities within the EPA. Especially in light of the confirmation of Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler, communications between his former firm of Faegre Baker Daniels

and the EPA could shed light on potential conflicts of interest going forward.

IV. Requests for Clarification

Lastly, if any part of this request can be clarified, or if the scope of the request can be narrowed to facilitate EPA's response, I invite you to contact me directly, either over phone or email, to discuss the most expeditious way that the EPA's legal obligations under FOIA may be met.

Thank you,

Lukas Ross
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